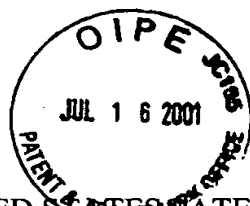


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Vitaly Arkadievich LIVSHITS et al : ATTN: APPLICATION BRANCH

SERIAL NO. NEW U.S. APPLICATION :

FILED: HERewith :

FOR: DNA CODING FOR PROTEIN WHICH CONFERS
ON BACTERIUM ESCHERICHIA COLI
RESISTANCE TO L-HOMOSERINE, AND METHOD
PRODUCING L-AMINO ACIDS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 5, beginning at line 3, please delete the paragraph and replace it with the following paragraph:

The DNA of the present invention may be referred to as "rhtB gene", a protein coded by the rhtB gene may be referred to as "RhtB protein", an activity of the RhtB protein which participates in resistance to L-homoserine of a bacterium (i.e. an activity of making a bacterium having the RhtB protein L-homoserine-resistant) may be referred to as "Rh activity", and a structural gene encoding the RhtB protein in the rhtB gene may be referred to as "rhtB structural gene". The term "enhancing the Rh activity" means imparting resistance to homoserine to a bacterium or enhancing the resistance by means of increasing the number of molecules of the RhtB protein, increasing a specific activity of the RhtB protein, or